

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /079 W

-----103454 060329Z /65

R 050546Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3333

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: XF, PLO, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINES DENIES PLO REQUEST FOR OFFICE

REF: (A) JAKARTA 9658, (B) KUALA LUMPUR 4905, (C) SINGAPORE 3129

1. SUMMARY: THREE MEMBER PLO DELEGATION VISITED MANILA JULY 26-29. DELEGATION MET WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS TO EXPLAIN PLO VIEWPOINTS AND REQUEST PERMISSION TO OPEN AN OFFICE. THOUGH TALKS WERE CHARACTERIZED AS CORDIAL AND FRUITFUL, GOP DID NOT GRANT REQUEST TO OPEN AN OFFICE AND REFUSED REQUEST THAT JOINT PRESS RELEASE MAKE REFERENCE TO THE "NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE MEMBER PLO DELEGATION TRAVELING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (REF-TELS) VISITED MANILA JULY 26-29. DELEGATION, LED BY FAROUK KADDOUMI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO AND PRESIDENT MARCOS TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT MIDEAST SITUATION, AS WELL AS T REQUEST PERMISSION TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN MANILA. ACCORDING TO DFA OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN VISIT, DELEGATION FIRST RAISED QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE WITH ROMULO WHO PARRIED REQUEST WITH REPLY THAT THIS DECISION COULD ONLY BE MADE BY PRESIDENT MARCOS. DELEGATION THEN RAISED QUESTION AGAIN IN MEETING WITH MARCOS WHO DECLINED

TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS PRIOR TO PLO VISIT, DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ARMANDO MANALO HAD STATED GOP DESIRE TO LIMIT LENGTH OF VISIT TO TWO DAYS, THOUGH PLO WANTED FOUR DAYS IN MANILA, AND THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD NOT MEET DELEGATION BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF PREPARATIONS FOR ASEAN SUMMIT. IN END, HOWEVER, GOP DECIDED NOT TO PRESS FOR SHORTER VISIT NOR TO DENY DELEGATION OPPORTUNITY TO MEET MARCOS. ACCORDING TO DFA OFFICIAL, DECISION TO PERMIT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT WAS MADE BY MARCOS HIMSELF FOLLOWING PLO INSISTANCE ON MEETING.

3. VISIT WAS VERY LOW-KEYED AND COVERAGE IN MANILA'S GUIDED PRESS WAS LIMITED TO A BRIEF ARTICLE UPON DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL, A SHORT COMMENTARY FROM ONE OF MANILA'S LARGE CORPS OF COLUMNISTS, AND BACK-PAGE COVERAGE OF JOINT PRESS RELEASE AT VISIT'S CONCLUSION WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS AS "FRUITFUL" AND "CORDIAL." ACCORDING DFA OFFICIAL, PLO WANTED A REFERENCE TO THE "NATIONAL RIGHTS" OF THE PALESTINIANS INCLUDED IN THE RELEASE. THE GOP, HOWEVER, INSISTED ON THE USE OF THE TERM "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN L90)3"; GOP CLAIMED THE LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BY THE PLO WOULD INDICATE A CHANGE IN GOP POLICY AND THAT A PRESS RELEASE WAS NOT AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO INDICATE A CHANGE OF THAT NATURE.

4. COMMENT: HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON MIDEASTERN OIL AND ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT LEAST THE NEUTRALITY OF THE ARAB STATES VIS-A-VIS THE CONFLICT IN MINDANAO, THE GOP REMAINS VERY SENSITIVE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD. THIS PROBABLY EXPLAINS WHY MARCOS ACCEDED TO THE PLO'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING. THE PHILIPPINES, HOWEVER, VIEWS THE PLO AS A STILL RADICAL ORGANIZATION AND IS NOT PREPARED TO ECHO COMPLETELY THE PLO LINE OR PERMIT AN OFFICE IN MANILA. STULL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: TERRORISTS, OPENING OF OFFICES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PINS, XF, RP, PLO
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